



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet 2015 North Dakota



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2014 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$153,900
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$137,800
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$315,550
Urban and Community Forestry	\$219,500
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$391,900
Total	\$1,218,650

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS), USDA Forest Service (USFS), and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of North Dakota's forests and rural economies according to priorities established in North Dakota's Forest Action Plan. We emphasize forest health, forest products, wildfire prevention, water resources, rural economies, responsible stewardship, and conservation practices.

Program Goals:

- Increase cost effectiveness by delivering services through partnerships;
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests;
- Use voluntary and non-regulatory approaches.

Key Issues:

- Invasive tree pests, tree pathogens, and invasive weeds;
- Over maturity and limited natural regeneration;
- Limited species diversity and vulnerability to damaging agents;
- Lack of educational outreach;
- Conversion from historic vegetation types;
- Wildfire;
- Limited opportunities to use wood;
- Climate change.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY 2014 Accomplishments	
Population	672,591	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,109
Acres of Forest Land	759,998	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	7,574
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	510,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	2,555
Number of NIPF Landowners	24,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	140
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	3,867,118	State Fire Communities Assisted	75
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	31,878,661	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	900
Number of Rural Fire Departments	378	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	357	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	109
Forest Based Employment	3,167	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	469,167
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	8,520
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	5,157,195		

Program Highlights:**Conservation Education**

Natural Resource Conservation Education funds are used to raise awareness about natural resource values, support informed decision making, and foster individual responsibility for forest resources in stewards of all ages. North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) actively promotes Project Learning Tree (PLT) opportunities for Pre-K through twelfth-grade students and teachers, training 385 teachers in 20 PLT workshops in 2014. A total of 1,815 fifth-grade students from 95 schools participated in the Arbor Day Poster Contest and 758 second-grade students from 73 schools participated in the Smokey Bear Poster Contest. The high school Envirothon program has grown from four teams in 2000 to more than 90 teams participating in 2014. NDFS staff reached 1,004 teachers in 35 events, and 13,971 K-12 students in 32 educational events this year.

Cooperative Fire Protection

National Fire Plan funds provide technical and financial assistance to local fire departments, and renovate federal excess firefighting property. NDFS provided more than 2,200 hours of comprehensive wildfire and prescribed burn training to more than 350 firefighters. Funds were used to maintain five Type 6 fire engines, two initial attack UTVs, a Type II fuels module, and a fire cache of equipment for 50 firefighters. These investments were critical for suppressing wildfires across North Dakota and in neighboring states, and strengthened interagency cooperation and coordination. This further provided improved fire suppression efficiency and effectiveness. Efforts continue with the North Dakota Firefighter's Association to conduct regional training opportunities for suppression, grants and prevention efforts for rural fire departments, and other local emergency services organizations. Cooperative Fire Protection Assistance grants were provided to 78 rural fire departments in 2014 for the purchase of personal protective equipment and fire suppression equipment.

Forest Health Protection

Forest Health Protection provides technical assistance, educational outreach, and training to private landowners, and collaborates with state, university, and federal personnel to deliver program services. A primary emphasis is the statewide monitoring of forest insects and disease conditions; diagnoses and assessment of forest pests on private and public lands; and training in the identification of insect and disease pests. The program collaborates with the USFS to implement the Forest Inventory and Analysis program.

Forest Stewardship

Technical forestry assistance includes: (1) providing natural resource planning to increase active management within native forestlands and windbreaks; (2) restoring riparian areas and category one watersheds; (3) promoting wildfire protection; (4) promoting tree planting to increase timber acreage; (5) assisting with timber harvesting and marketing; (6) creating financial incentives for land owners to be good stewards; and (7) engaging in hazardous fuels reduction projects. In 2014, 1,109 landowners received a variety of program assistance that included developing 48 new Forest Stewardship plans.

Urban and Community Forestry

The North Dakota Community Forestry Council, an advisory group to the State Forester, provides program guidance and maintains priorities, including: Plant Health Care, Species Diversity, Right Tree-Right Place, Sustainable Forestry, and Promoting Professionalism. In 2014, 469,637 people lived in communities receiving educational, technical, or financial assistance. Nearly 77% of North Dakota's population lives in communities with active urban and community forestry initiatives. Communities were awarded \$353,606 for 32 tree planting and program development grants. With community matching funds, investments totaled \$883,363.

Great Plains Forestry Partnership

This partnership is a multi-state effort to manage the threat from emerald ash borer (EAB) and other invasive pests damaging the limited tree resources of the Great Plains. In 2014, Community Forestry staff implemented the third year of the Community Threat Assessment Protocol and inventoried 31 North Dakota communities in response to the increasing concern of forest insect, disease, and wildfire threats. The resulting inventories will provide communities with current information about their forest resources and enable them to make educated management decisions. A new web-based Community EAB Preparedness and Response Plan template has been developed. Grant funding is available for communities to develop or implement response plans, initiate tree inventories or increase species diversity.

Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Management

This program is delivered through the North Dakota Department of Agriculture for the detection, suppression, and control of non-native invasive plants. In 2014, 100 acres were restored and 2,400 priority acres were treated using herbicides and biological control agents. The goals of the program are to: (a) enhance education, planning, and monitoring efforts to prevent new weed invasions; (b) implement early detection and rapid response to new invaders; (c) control small infestations and contain the spread of existing infestations; (d) promote the use of biological control agents; and (e) to work cooperatively across ownership boundaries. Cooperative Forestry funds contributed to increased weed control, cooperation, and a better public understanding of the need for an integrated weed management program.

For more information, please contact:**North Dakota Forest Service**

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